

Nursing work experience in London

Work experience takes place in an actual workplace and allows people to understand what it's like to work in a job, supervised by staff in that environment. Offering nursing work experience to young people and others interested in a nursing career provides them with real-life insight and understanding of what it's like to work as a nurse.

This leaflet provides information on the different fields of nursing and settings where a nurse can work.



Got more questions?

Contact:

For more information on how to become a nurse and the different fields of nursing, or for clinical support roles, please visit:

- www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/studyingnursing
- www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/health/capitalnurse
- www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/clinicalsupport

Developing people
for health and
healthcare

www.hee.nhs.uk

Connect with us:



CAPITAL nurse

Nursing work experience in London



NHS
Health Education England

Why nursing?

Nursing is a great career where you get to work with a range of people from all ages and different cultural backgrounds. A registered nurse is a graduate profession and there are four fields of nursing you can choose from:

- adult;
- child;
- learning disability; and
- mental health.

Once you've qualified as a nurse in your chosen field, you can progress your career in many ways and work anywhere in the UK and in most parts of the world. In London there are opportunities to work in many settings such as:

- hospitals;
- community services;
- care homes;
- hospices;
- schools;
- prisons;
- nurse education;
- research; and
- leadership.

You need a degree to be able to become a registered nurse, but there are different ways to be part of the nursing team, for example as a healthcare assistant or nursing associate.



Benefits of nursing work experience

Work experience will:

- help you decide if nursing is the right career for you;
- give you an understanding of what it's like to work in the NHS;
- give you the opportunity to work with other NHS professionals including doctors, social workers, occupational therapists, secretaries etc; and
- support your application for a nursing degree programme.

How does it work?

During your work experience placement, you'll shadow a registered nurse and have opportunities to shadow other professionals who work with nurses. Although you won't be able to provide any direct, hands-on care to patients, as only trained healthcare professionals are able to do that, you'll still be able to observe nursing care being given to patients.

The nurse supporting you during your work experience placement will be able to answer any questions you have about nursing, so that you can make an informed decision about whether it's the right career for you.

Work experience activities

- Simulation in basic nursing skills.
- Attending staff training sessions.
- Helping make empty beds.
- Supporting with errands e.g. visiting another department/the pharmacy.
- Talking to patients/sitting in ward rounds.
- Helping at meal times.
- Observing specialist nursing techniques.
- Observing other activities on the ward, such as occupational therapist activities/groups.

How long would my work experience placement be?

Work experience is usually offered for one to two weeks for young people aged 16 to 18. It doesn't necessarily need to be completed in a block period. You can ask for work experience to fit around your time, but this needs to be agreed with the work experience placement provider and will depend on the ability to offer work experience on the dates requested.

How do I access work experience?

Most NHS trusts in London offer work experience for young people aged 16+.

Schools and colleges usually organise work experience placements for you as part of the curriculum. If you are interested in gaining work experience in nursing, speak with your teacher or career advisor.

You could also do some work experience outside of the school curriculum and in your own time. Your parent or guardian can contact your local trust to make these enquiries on your behalf. Look up the healthcare organisations in your area at www.nhs.uk.

